

# EXETER

INTERNATIONAL

The Istanbul Loop  
on board the Danube Express  
(Budapest – Istanbul - Budapest)



We are proud to introduce Europe's newest (yet historic) luxury train, the Danube Express. As the very first train to offer understated luxury, modern comforts and traditional service along the scenic routes of Central and Eastern Europe, the Danube Express is changing the way we experience travel in this part of the world. Finally, a train that makes getting there just as much fun as being there.

## Day 1

### *Budapest*

Transfer to the rail station for your mid-morning departure from Budapest Nyugati station after a reception in the Royal Waiting Room. You will have time to settle in on board the Danube Express before enjoying lunch as the train leaves the suburbs of Budapest behind.

*(Please ensure that you are in Budapest in time for the train's departure. We will be happy to assist with additional nights in Budapest prior to departure as necessary)*

The first stop will be in Lajosmizse, considered the meeting points for routes from the north, south, east and west and inhabited since the Bronze Age. You will have the opportunity to see a Putzsa equestrian display here.

After lunch, enjoy the opportunity for some free time in Kecskemét the 8<sup>th</sup> largest town in Hungary with a Gothic style city hall, synagogue and ancient church.

Dinner is on board the Danube Express as the journey to Transylvania continues.

**Exeter Services: Transfer**  
**Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner**

## Day 2

### *Sigishoara & Brasov*

As dawn breaks the track twists and turns towards Sigishoara where you will be able to enjoy a walking tour of this wonderfully preserved medieval city, rumoured to be the birthplace of Dracula.

Lunch is served on board the train as the journey continues to Brasov where you will visit Bran Castle, a beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> century building situated amongst stunning mountain scenery.

Back on board the Danube Express dinner is served as you travel through the valley with dense forests, crystal clear mountain streams and spectacular waterfalls cascading past your window as the train threads its way through the dramatic landscape of the Carpathian Mountains.

**Services provided by the Danube Express**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

### Day 3

#### *Veliko Turnovo & Kazanlak*

This morning the Danube Express arrives in Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria's ancient capital which lies nestled in a picturesque mountain setting and stone houses are perched one above the other on the steep bank of the Yantra River. You will visit one of the seven ancient monasteries and the superbly preserved medieval Tsarevets Hill and Castle.

Return to the train and enjoy lunch as you journey over the Shipka mountain pass for an afternoon arrival in Kazanlak, capital of the Valley of the Roses and the center of rose oil production. You will have the opportunity to visit the Thracian tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where the vaulted brickwork and splendid murals date back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC.

This evening you may wish to join your fellow travelers in the lounge car before dinner which is served on board as the train heads towards the Turkish border which you will cross late in the evening.

**Services provided by the Danube Express**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

### Day 4

#### *Istanbul*

Awaken as the Danube Express runs alongside the Bosphorus and underneath the walls of the Topkapi Palace. Glimpse Asia across the water as East meets West in the world's only metropolis spanning two continents as you arrive at Istanbul Sirkeci station.

Transfer to the Yasmak Sultan Hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure exploring this fascinating city. If you wish to arrange sightseeing with a private guide today please contact us for details and pricing.

**Services provided by the Danube Express**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast at your hotel**

## Day 5

### *Istanbul*

This morning you will transfer to the station and drop of your overnight bags onboard the Danube Express before enjoying the remainder of the day at leisure in Istanbul.

Make your own way back to the station this afternoon for your late afternoon departure. As the Danube Express heads into the sunset dinner will be served on board and the journey continues overnight to Bulgaria.

### **Services provided by the Danube Express**

**Meals Included: Breakfast at your hotel; Dinner**

## Day 6

### *Plodiv & Sofia*

Arrival in one of the world's oldest cities this morning – Plovdiv where a morning sightseeing tour includes the old town with its cobblestone streets, the Ethnographic Museum and the Roman Amphitheater.

Onboard the train lunch is served as you journey towards Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. From the ancient city walls and the Rotunda of St. George to the St. Sophia Church and the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the city has a unique and eclectic mix of Western and Central European architecture.

Relax in the bar car this evening before dinner as the Danube Express travels towards Serbia.

### **Services provided by the Danube Express**

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

## Day 7

### *Novi Sad & Budapest*

The train crosses the mighty Danube ahead of arrival in Novi Sad. A morning tour includes the imposing 18<sup>th</sup> century Austro-Hungarian Petrovaradin Fortress, Liberty Square and the beautiful Dunavska (Danube) Street in the old town.

Back on board lunch is served on the final leg of the journey with an early evening arrival into Budapest Nyugati Station. Your driver will meet you on the platform and transfer you to your hotel or the airport.

**Exeter Services: Transfer**

**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Danube Express – The Istanbul Loop (6 Nights)**

**Budapest – Istanbul - Budapest**

\$7,175.00

May 30 – June 05, 2012

Single Supplement: \$3,275.00

All prices are per person, double occupancy.  
Transfers to and from hotel or airport are included  
Prices do not include any airfare

**Pre and Post train options are available and may include hotels and sightseeing.  
Please contact Exeter International for more details.**

**Accommodations on board the Danube Express:**

Exeter International offers accommodations in Deluxe Class cabins each of which has two lower beds (convertible during the day to a sitting area), individually controlled air-conditioning, and en suite amenities including power showers. Deluxe Class cabins have an area of 83 square feet.



While on the train, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included in the beautifully appointed restaurant car. All guests have beer and wine with dinner included.

*Please note that sightseeing may vary dependent on dates of travel and closure days of certain museums or sites.*

*All arrangements are subject to availability and modification if necessary.  
Prices are subject to change if necessary until paid in full.*

**Exeter International**

[tours@exeterinternational.com](mailto:tours@exeterinternational.com) [www.exeterinternational.com](http://www.exeterinternational.com)

111 South Dakota Avenue | Tampa, Florida 33606

Phone: (813) 251-5355 | (800) 633-1008 | Fax: (813) 251-6685